

**Governor's P-20 Council
Literacy Committee Meeting
October 6, 2008 - 2:00 p.m.
Meeting Notes**

Location: 1700 W. Washington, 6th Floor Conference Room A, Phoenix, AZ 85007

P-20 Members Present: Daniela Robles, Cheryl Foster, and Carlos Contreras (telephonic).

Others Present: Kristen Rex, Tomas Leon, Sally Roof, Dr. Patty Anders and Kathy Hrabluk.

Staff Present: Debra Raeder, Erin Hart and Claire Parriott.

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Daniela Robles called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm. Daniela welcomed everyone and invited attendees to introduce themselves.

2. Update/Status: ADE Proposed Rule Language - Reading Endorsement

Kathy Hrabluk reported that the State Board of Education had opened the ADE Reading Endorsement proposed rule language for public comment. The public comment period is over the next 60-days (October and November). Comments can be sent to Vince Yanez, Executive Director of the State Board of Education (SBE). Kathy reported that it is anticipated that the SBE will vote on the proposed rule language at its December meeting and that she will keep the Committee posted.

3. Presentation & Update: P-20 Council's Teachers Reading Endorsement Scholarship Program

Debra Raeder, Executive Director for the Governor's P-20 Council, announced that the Council had received a new Teachers Reading Endorsement Grant from the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona in coordination with the Literacy for Life Coalition. The grant is in the amount of \$40,000 and will support 14 teachers in southern Arizona pursue a reading endorsement. Debra thanked Tomas Leon for his assistance in helping the Council obtain this grant.

Penny Kotterman updated the Committee on the status of the Teachers Reading Endorsement Grant. Penny reported that there were 19 applicants in the first round of selection for coursework that began in the summer of 2008 and that 12 applicants met the criteria for selection. Three teachers have completed their coursework and have applied for the reading endorsement from the ADE certification unit. Two additional applicants have applied for the grant for coursework beginning in January 2009.

Debra also reported that information regarding the Teachers Reading Endorsement Grant Program had been distributed in the Toolkit prepared by the Council and supposedly distributed to all 4th, 5th, and 6th grade teachers throughout the state. A request was sent to school librarians to survey whether teachers had received the toolkits. A number of librarians have responded indicating that teachers have not received the toolkits in their respective schools. Staff will pursue trying to determine what has happened to the toolkits and to get them to teachers. The Committee discussed alternative methods for distributing information regarding the grants to teachers by providing the information to: reading specialists through the state; websites that teachers monitor; teacher bulletin boards; etc. Staff will pursue.

4. Review/Discussion: Condition of School Libraries in Arizona

Sally Roof provided the Committee with information regarding a survey that had been conducted by the State Library Association on the condition of school libraries. However, the Association has not had the means to collate and interpret the data. The Committee discussed possible options for compiling the data. The K-12 Center will review the information and determine if they can provide this assistance.

The Committee engaged in a lengthy discussion on the importance of school libraries and library specialists (librarians) indicating that students need access to all types of resources, both technology and books, and that it required someone with special training to meet these needs. The Committee also agreed that redefining the role of librarians in the schools is imperative and that there must be a focus on libraries as a strategy for literacy.

5. Review/Discussion: Committee Work Plan

The Committee engaged in a review of the Work Plan. The Committee discussed the accomplishments of the Committee to date, and agreed that the remaining goals must be pursued. The Committee identified the development of a statewide literacy strategic plan as the most important goal for the Committee to pursue and that once this plan is developed it would help address the remaining goals. The Committee requested a subcommittee be formed to begin work on a statewide literacy strategic plan.

6. Next Steps

- Determine and ensure distribution of Literacy Toolkits
- Determine other ways to market the Teacher Reading Endorsement Scholarship program
- Identify a taskforce to begin work on statewide literacy strategic plan
- Consider a statewide literacy forum to provide input into the strategic plan
- Update on Rule Language for Teacher Reading Endorsement

7. Call to the Public

There were no requests from the public to address the Committee.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.